[8th February 1924

Country liquor manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co.

380 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Education be pleased to state—

(1) what are the products and materials from which country liquor is manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co. ;

(2) whether it is a fact that it gives a horrible stench and bad taste specially when diluted with water before it is distributed for sale, and is ordinarily mixed with sweet ærated waters to disguise the stench ;

(3) in what kind of vessels is the liquor distilled and what precautions are taken against metallic poisoning ; and

(4) whether it is not possible to manufacture liquor without the stench it gives out ?

A.—(1) Bases used are molasses from Java and treacle, a by-product obtained in the manufacture of sugar.

(2) No.

(3) Liquor is manufactured in patent European stills such as Ilges and Coffey's stills and is free from metallic poisoning. The precautions taken are periodical tests in the Board's Laboratory apart from tests carried out by the Firm's European Chemist on the spot. The liquor is also tested in the Board's Laboratory rom time to time.

(4) No stench is given out.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Will the hon. the Minister say why molasses should be ordered from Java and other places? Is it not possible to get molasses in India, or even in this Presidency? I for one know there is lot of molasses to be obtained in this Presidency."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Messrs. Parry & Co. are the best judges in the matter, and they are businessmen. The molasses are indented for by them and not by the Government."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Why should not the Government try to obtain molasses themselves ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" It is purely a business concern of Messrs. Parry & Co."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What I want is that the Government should obtain the molasses and manufacture liquor instead of leaving it to one single Company, Messrs. Parry & Co., for the whole Presidency."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Does the hon. Member suggest that Government should manufacture arrack and sell it themselves ? "

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—' I do suggest that. If you want liquor at all, let the Government manufacture it and give good liquor."

Public Works.

List of Government buildings rented in Madras.

381 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to furnish a list of Government buildings rented

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to Government servants in the city of Madras, including Adyar, with rent paid for each house per month and if possible the value and date of purchase of each one of the buildings?

A.—The list asked for by the hon. Member is laid on the table.*

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—" Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works say on what basis these rents are charged, whether they are on the value of the building or on the pay of the officer occupying the building?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" There are definite rules on the matter, and I shall be very glad to give a copy of those rules to the hon. Member. All the rents are pooled and they are distributed over the buildings according to the capital cost."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—" With reference to column 2 in Appendix VI at page 71 of this volume of questions, may I know from the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works whether the figures given there represent the present value of the buildings or the value at which they were bought?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" The hon. Member is referred to column 3 where the year of purchase is given."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—" I beg to know, Sir, whether the values given in column 2 represent the present value or the value at which they were bought."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" Again I invite attention to column 3 giving the dates."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" The hon. Member wants to know whether the value given is that at the time of purchase or the present value."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" That is stated in column 3."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Column 3 only gives the date."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—" The juxtaposition of the columns does not show any relation between those columns (columns 2 and 3). Does it show the present value or the value at which they were bought? If the hon. Member seriously thinks so, let him get up and say so. It is a very simple and obvious question to answer."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—" Is the hon. the Minister in a position to deny that they are valuation at the time of purchase?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—" May I answer that question, Sir. The rules will be found in the Fundamental Rules which provide for the calculation of a standard rent based firstly upon the cost of the building and the site, secondly on the additions to capital cost made subsequent to purchase, and thirdly on the cost of repairs. In other words, the standard rent must cover the interest on capital cost plus subsequent additions and a reasonable amount for repairs from year to year. Therefore the value of the building does not represent exactly the value at the time of purchase. It represents the capital expended on the acquisition or construction of the buildings, plus the capital cost on account of additions subsequently made."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—" That is what I wanted."

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* Printed as Appendix IV on pages 446-447 infra.

provisions of the Bill. It is not necessary for me at this stage to enter into any detailed discussion of the merits or the demerits of the Bill in some of its important provisions and I propose to reserve my remarks for a future occasion. But, so far as the present motion is concerned, I venture to state that this motion is rather misconceived. Having regard to the attitude of the hon. the Law Member in the elaborate statements that he made that reasonable opportunities will be given and that all reasonable representations will receive due consideration, there is absolutely no reason why we should try to place an embargo upon the Bill at this stage. The hon. the Law Member told us that the Select Committee, whatever its complexion or constitution may be, is not likely to commence its labours till about the beginning of March. That means it will give plenty of time for various public bodies and private institutions and private gentlemen to meet together and settle their well-considered resolutions and pass them on to the Select Committee for their consideration. It would also be possible for us to make ourselves felt through the medium of the Select Committee which will be constituted. In my humble judgment, the Bill is long overdue, and the hon. the Law Member, after some correspondence with the Government of India, has after all thought it fit to place this Bill before the House at a belated stage, and, as such, we should not oppose the introduction of the Bill. In these circumstances, I feel constrained to oppose the motion for adjournment."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, even on the last occasion, when the hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar introduced the Irrigation Bill, I voted against its rejection. As one coming from the districts which are in urgent need of big irrigation schemes which have no chance of being initiated unless a measure of the kind now under discussion is enacted, I feel it my duty to give all the support I can for leave being granted for the introduction of this Bill (hear, hear). In saying so of course I am not committing myself to any acceptance of the details embodied in the Bill. I know there are some provisions in the Bill which are open to serious objection, but I do not despair of rectifying those defects either in the stage of the Select Committee or later on. I do not know whether hon. Members of this House who were sitting here last time are unaware of the fact of the introduction of some of the Bills in this House and of their emergence subsequently from the Select Committee beyond all recognition from the form they originally had. If that were possible in the case of some Bills, I do not see why we should now despair of bringing about reasonable changes in the Bill as now placed before us. So, Sir, I would appeal to the Members of all parties in this House not to treat this Bill as a party question as they did last time—very unfortunately as I think. I would appeal to them to take a broad view of the matter and to give leave only for the introduction of the Bill. I would also suggest to the hon. the Law Member to afford all facilities he can for representations being made in the Select Committee stage also. It may be that the ryots may not be able to present their objections by themselves, and they may have the necessity of invoking the aid of lawyers in presenting their points of view. I am asking him to permit representations being made by their vakils or agents. I think the hon. the Law Member is prepared to give us facilities in this way, and I do not see any reason why, after the statement that he has made, we should refuse leave for the introduction of the Bill at this stage. He has shown to us the urgency of the